

RESURRECTED LIFE

PART 2: NO PERFECT LIFE

Being a Christian doesn't mean we will have a trouble-free life, in fact, Jesus told us just the opposite. He told us that we would have trouble in this world. Sometimes trouble comes from things outside our control, and sometimes trouble comes from things we can control—our decisions, attitudes, or habits. Understanding how to live the resurrected life will empower us to overcome the troubles we can sometimes bring on ourselves.

CONNECT

Decisions often define who we are, for good or for bad. We've all had situations where we wish we could have “do-overs”—to do things differently for one reason or another. Maybe you were running late to work and got into a fender bender trying to make up time. Or maybe a conversation with a family member or friend turned into an unexpected argument.

Share a situation where you wish you could have had a “do-over.”

Deciding to follow Jesus doesn't make us perfect. In fact, many people continue to struggle with the same issues we did before we accepted Jesus... which may lead us to wonder, *Why do I still struggle with the same issues? Why is there a gap between who I ought to be as a Christ follower and who I often am?*

LEARN

You will watch a shortened version of a message from this series to set up your group discussion. Watch the full message sometime this week as a reminder of what you talked about today.

APPLY

After sharing what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. Read **Romans 7:15–18**. Why do you think we (like Paul) struggle to do the good things we want to do?
2. If there is grace and forgiveness through Jesus, why does it matter if we fail or fall short?
3. In the video, a distinction was made between the power of sin and the influence of sin. How are they different? Why is this important?
4. Becoming more like Jesus (sometimes called *sanctification*) is a process—it doesn't just happen overnight. Is this encouraging to you? Is it discouraging? Talk about it as a group.



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5. Because of the culture we live in or the environment we grew up in, grace can sometimes be hard to fully embrace. What do you think it looks like to live by grace and to show grace to others?

BEFORE NEXT TIME

When we feel stuck in a cycle of bad decisions, we can:

1. Find *hope* by looking to Jesus (**Romans 7:25a**).
2. Remember there is *no condemnation* when you fail or fall short (**Romans 8:1–2**).
3. Embrace the *grace* of God.

This week, take time to memorize **Romans 8:1** as a way to find hope and embrace the grace God has for you.

PRAY

Take time to pray as a group. You can use the following prayer as a guide:

“Heavenly Father, thank you for providing a way for us to be made right with you through Jesus’s death on a cross. Thank you that because Jesus was perfect, we don’t have to be. You know we can’t live in our strength alone. Remind us of your forgiveness and grace, especially when we fail. Give us the wisdom to make wise decisions. Help us to turn our eyes toward Jesus and to live in the resurrected life.”

